

Rain or Snow Tonight.  
Warmer Tomorrow.

NUMBER 4958.

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 11, 1903.

LAST EDITION

PRICE ONE CENT

## Cheaper Gas Urged By Commissioners In Congress Report

Recommend Reduction,  
But Do Not Demand  
Price of 75 Cents.

Ask for Authority and  
Means to Supervise All  
District Utilities.

Cheaper gas, for which The Times has been consistently fighting, is recommended by the District Commissioners in their report to Congress today on Representative Madden's 75-cent gas bill.

The Commissioners say they favor a reduction of the price of the commodity, but do not wish to set the price at 75 cents until experts have determined at what figure the gas-light company can sell gas at a reasonable profit. The Commissioners also ask for authority and means to supervise the operation of the gas-light company's plant, and all other public utilities of the District.

The report is as follows:

**Favor a Reduction.**  
"That they are in favor of a reduction in the price of gas to whatever figure will yield a reasonable profit to the gas-light companies as they have heretofore recommended to Congress. But as they have also stated to Congress, they have not the authority or the means at present to determine what that price shall be."

"They have recommended in their annual report that they shall be given the necessary authority and means to properly supervise the operation of all the public utility corporations in the District of Columbia, including the gas-light companies."

"If Congress will give them the additional authority and means needed they will be able, with the advice of disinterested experts employed by them for the purpose of investigation, to arrive at the amount of reduction that ought to be made in the price of gas."

**No Public Hearing Needed.**  
Commissioner West said today that he did not think a public hearing on the gas question would be necessary, as arguments for and against the proposition were presented at a hearing last year, and the Commissioners were now informed as to the sentiment of the people on the subject.

The Madden bill was introduced in the House December 2, was sent to the Commissioners today for report and received prompt attention.

**OLD VIRGINIA HOME  
DESTROYED BY FIRE**

The home of Homer Beavers, at Fort Hunt, Va., was destroyed by fire while he was in Washington several days ago. The old Virginia mansion of sixteen rooms, was valued at \$10,000. Nothing belonging to the family was saved except the clothing worn at the time of the fire.

Mrs. Beavers was in the second story of the home, when the fire began and, finding that she could not escape by the stairway, jumped from the window. She was painfully, but not seriously injured.

**What Congress Did Today.**

**IN THE HOUSE.**  
The Gill resolution, asking the President to submit to the House the correspondence relating to the Brownson resignation, was passed.

The De Armond resolution, extending until January 1, 1904, the time in which the State can make applications to the Treasury Department for the payment of certain Spanish war claims, was passed.

The House then went into committee of the whole to consider the bill for the revision of the laws.

**IN THE SENATE.**  
No session until Monday.

**COL. W. L. FISK ASSIGNED.**  
Col. Walter L. Fisk, Corps of Engineers, has been assigned to additional duty in the Twenty-third district.

The order was issued at the instance of President Roosevelt today. Colonel Fisk will relieve Col. Henry L. Adams, and will report to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

**THE WEATHER REPORT.**

During the last twenty-four hours the center of an energetic disturbance has moved from Texas to Mississippi, attended by heavy rain in the lower Mississippi valley and the Middle and East Gulf States. This morning the disturbance extends over the States of the lower Ohio and middle Mississippi valleys, and covers South Carolina and western North Carolina. A cold front has fallen on the north Pacific coast.

Steamers departing today for European ports will have winds shifting to fresh and brisk easterly with fair weather, followed by snow or rain to the Grand Banks.

**TEMPERATURE.**  
8 a. m. 39  
12 noon 42  
1 p. m. 45

**SUN TABLE.**  
Sun rises 7:17  
Sun sets 4:58

**TIDE TABLE.**  
High water today 2:37 p. m.  
Low water today 9:25 p. m.  
High water tomorrow 3:08 a. m., 3:32 p. m.  
Low water tomorrow 9:55 a. m., 10:22 p. m.

## "FAST" METER GAS SWINDLE IS LAID BARE

New York Commission  
Stops Practice, But  
Washington Has  
No Recourse.

Writing about the work of the new public service commission in New York the Saturday Evening Post presents, as one of the greatest services that body has rendered to the public, the work of regulation of gas meters. It is found under the New York law and experience that the gas concerns have been robbing their patrons extensively by dint of using "fast" meters.

Nobody in Washington will need to be assured that the same practice, or something like it, is employed here. Gas bills are universally reported higher than ever before, and gas quality lower.

**Suggests Meter Detective.**

Here is a letter which came to The Times this morning, presenting one suggestion for remedying the situation:

"Editor Washington Times:  
"Hoping that you bring to the attention of the authorities the manner in which the monthly collections are made by the gas company, I beg to make the following suggestion:

"There will be little use in reducing the price of gas, if some other way is not found in taking the monthly state of the meter, than the present one. I suggest that the state of the meter be taken on duplicate slip, showing the dial of the meter marked to correspond for inspection together with the exact time of taking the same, and deposited with occupant of the house at the time it is taken. The auditor of the District, Mr. Garrison recommended that an employee accompany the collector for the gas company to certify the statement of the meter. I think it has been found satisfactory to both parties concerned."

**"A READER OF THE TIMES."**

The Times has the highly interesting assurance of a man with long experience as an official of a gas company, that the use of this device is not only possible, but that it is being done by some of the gas companies.

The inventor is producing devices that will make gas meters register fast. These, it is declared, are constantly being offered to gas companies. The inventors seem to assume that gas companies would be quite willing to use fast meters if they could do so safely.

**Wouldn't, But Could.**

Of course, the Washington Gas Monopoly wouldn't do any such thing. No, indeed. But if it wanted to, it would be able to work the scheme right easily, for there is no real attention paid by the gas company to the working of the meters.

If the consumer complains and asks that his meter be taken out and inspected, an employee of the gas company goes to the house, takes out the meter, lugs it around to the Gas Monopoly's office, if he likes, and in time gets it to the inspector for the official test. After the test is made, the meters are certified as correct and again turned over to the Gas Monopoly to be set in the house of consumer.

There may be folk in this town who don't believe the Gas Monopoly would be so mean as to do such a thing. There may be confiding individuals who wouldn't think it willing to employ a scheme to rob the consumers. But they are so scarce that a proposition to exhibit a dozen of them on one stage, all captured in Washington, and all having the same kind of gas, would fill a mighty big theater.

**Eliminating "Fast" Meters.**

Here is what the Saturday Evening Post says about the work of the New York commission in eliminating the "fast" gas meter:

"Perhaps no activity of the Public Service Commission touches so intimately the great mass of the people as the official inspection of gas meters. Here is a work that not only involves the consuming of the pennies of the poor, but the dollars of the rich."

"For years the inspection of the gas meters in New York State was almost a formality. In fact, it was not a real inspection. It was the practice of the state inspector of meters to select ten or fifteen meters out of a lot of a thousand, examine these and then issue a certificate for the entire thousand. If any of these meters happened to be defective the consumer had to pay often an excessive charge."

"But that sort of thing does not go now. Each commission has a bureau of gas and electricity, with a staff of inspectors, whose duty it is to inspect every meter that goes into service. What is more significant, every person in the State can have his own meter inspected. If it is found that the meter is fast, it is seldom ever over 50 cents. If the meter is accurate the consumer pays."

"Every meter installed must bear the seal of the commission. In New York city during the first four months of the year ninety-nine thousand meters were inspected and tested."

**Swindling Is Detected.**

The records of meter testing in New York city show some impressive results. In three months 1234 complaints were made.

(Continued on Second Page.)

**Artistic Printing Executed Quickly as you want it.** Globe Printing Co., 14th & E. sts. nw.-Adv.

## DISASTER HANGS BEST OF SUBWAY AFTER BIG FIRE

Water Pumped To  
Wrecked Parker Building's  
Cellar Threatened  
Thousands.

Three Firemen Lost  
Their Lives in Most  
Treacherous Blaze  
in Years.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—The thousands of people who used the subway to get to their places of business today will probably never realize that but six inches of concrete stood between them and death by drowning.

In the cellar of the Parker building, at Eighteenth street and Fourth avenue, are thousands of tons of water pumped into it by twenty-five of the largest fire engines in the world, working at their utmost capacity more than five hours. This water running today in the cellar and subbasement of the skyscraper, whose foundations about the big tube that is in the main artery of the city's transportation facilities.

**Danger Realized.**

It was not until this morning that the police realized the danger that beset the subway travelers. An officer standing in the subway station at Eighteenth street saw water trickling down the walls, and at once notified the building department. Inspectors from that bureau made a hurried examination and quickly realized the danger. Hurry orders were sent out to shut off all traffic in the tube south of Forty-second street. The authorities are now considering the best plan to get rid of the water in the cellars.

The cellars in that vicinity are solid rock, and if the concrete foundation of the Parker building gives way the water for the water will be the subway.

So grave is the situation that the chief engineer of the city's building department has been ordered to the scene to determine what is best to be done.

The search for the bodies of the three firemen who undoubtedly lost their lives while fighting the flames is being pushed as rapidly as the red-hot rules of the skyscraper can be handled. Thus far, not a sign of any of the men has been found.

They are James O'Connor and Thomas Phillips, of engine company No. 72, and John Fallon, of fire patrol No. 72. All are known to have been caught under falls of tons of cement which formed the ceiling of the large fireproof work, and there is no chance that they escaped alive.

Of the fifty odd injured policemen and firemen all will recover. Twenty-two of the number are at Bellevue, St. Vincent's, Roosevelt, and Flower Hospitals. Police Captain McDermott, of the East Twenty-second street station, who suffered a crushed knee cap, is probably the most seriously hurt.

**Loss Estimated \$6,000,000.**

Estimates by losers in the fire make small changes in Fire Commissioner Langtry's and Assistant Fire Chief Ben's original guess at about \$6,000,000. Out of his total of about \$1,000,000, the loss was on the stock of Karagheusian & Co., the Constantinople rug importer, and on the stock of the other companies.

Collier's Weekly and Judge Publishing companies have not yet determined the loss, but the loss was on the stock of the other companies which were in the building—a considerable proportion of them publishing houses—may be ascertained by the time the fire department's estimate of about \$6,000,000 is confirmed.

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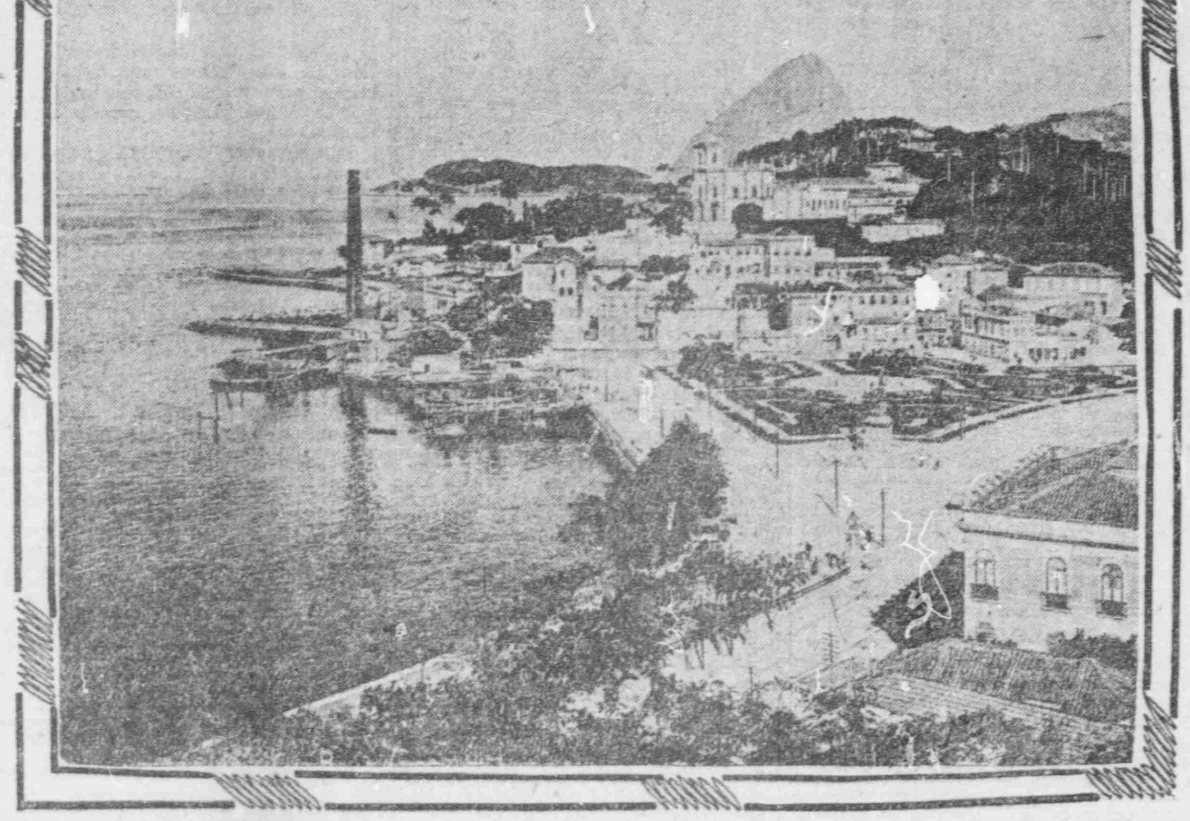
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## PLAN ROYAL WELCOME FOR ATLANTIC FLEET



View of the Shore Boulevard and of the Magnificent Harbor of Rio Janeiro, Where Admiral Evans' Fleet Will Ride at Anchor Until January 21.

Residents of Rio de Janeiro Have Arranged  
Week of Entertainment.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 11.—Elaborate preparations have been made for the reception for the United States battleship fleet due here today on its way to Pacific waters. The city officials and others have announced the program, approved by Irving B. Dudley, the American ambassador, which contains a week of continued entertainment.

The regular ship Panther and the tender Yankton, belonging to the auxiliary division of the fleet, arrived here yesterday from the Port of Spain, Trinidad. The Yankton made the last few hours of the trip in tow of the Panther, her coal supply having run short.

Lieut. W. H. Gherardi, commanding the Yankton, and Commander V. S. Neely, of the Panther, will pay a visit today to the Brazilian minister of marine, Admiral Olencar.

The program for the entertainment of the fleet follows:  
January 12—Officers of the fleet will visit the minister of Foreign Affairs, Baron de Rio Branco.

January 13—Visit by Dr. Penna, President of the republic, at Petropolis; in the evening, a dinner at the American embassy at Petropolis.

January 14—Breakfast given by the President of the republic at Petropolis and garden party at the American embassy.

January 15—Entertainment by the American colony at Fluminense Park.

January 16—Picnic given by the Brazilian navy at Tijuca Park.

There probably will be a reception on board some of the American battleships January 21.

The fleet is scheduled to leave here on January 21.

**T. A. ROVER DEAD;  
VETERAN GROCER**

Thomas A. Rover, a well-known grocer, died at his residence, 49 I street northeast, about 8 o'clock this morning. Mr. Rover had long suffered from a cancer of the stomach, and was compelled to take to his bed six weeks ago.

Mr. Rover was born in Virginia sixty-four years ago, but came to Washington when a young man, and engaged in the grocery business. His store at North Capitol and H streets is a landmark, and he was one of the most prominent and popular grocers in Washington.

He is survived by a widow, sister, four daughters, and two sons.

**MOROCCO PROCLAIMS  
USURPER AS SULTAN**

PARIS, Jan. 11.—That Haïd has been proclaimed Sultan of Morocco. His claim is confirmed by government dispatches received today. His priests accepted his assumption of royalty by declaring a holy war against the French.

The development is a heavy blow to France. The declaration of the holy war is certain, also, to draw to his banner again all the desert tribes which it was hoped the recent campaign had completely scattered.

The most serious feature of the situation is that Germany is considered certain to interfere, reopening all the troubles which preceded the Algeiras conference, unless the French restore order in Morocco.

**\$1.25 to Baltimore and Return**  
Every Saturday and Sunday via Pennsylvania Railroad. Tickets good returning until Sunday night. All regular trains except "Congressional Limited."—Adv.

**TIGER FIGHTS GIRL;  
BEAST IS KILLED  
BY CHILD'S FATHER**

Animal Had Been Pet in  
Household Since It  
Was Cub.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—Thomas Beet, proprietor of a private detective agency, had a fierce battle yesterday with a tiger cub, which had been a pet in his home and had the freedom of the house like a cat or dog. The struggle occurred when the beast suddenly became ferocious and turned on Beet's six-year-old daughter, Dorothy.

Beet finally killed the cub by asphyxiating it in a gas oven, but the encounter left him weak from fright over his daughter's narrow escape.

Empress, as Beet's children, Dorothy and Mildred, called the beast, was the gift of Capt. Cyrus Weldon, skipper of a craft in the South American trade. Captain Weldon caught the cub when it was only two months old and gave it to Beet several months ago.

**Pet Became Restless.**  
Empress played with Beet's children like a big cat. It had always seemed gentle, and Mr. and Mrs. Beet felt no hesitancy in letting their little ones make a pet of it. Recently, however, Empress had become sulky and restive, and Mr. Beet was thinking of giving her to the zoo. Still he did not chain the beast up, although he warned the children against playing too roughly with it.

Beet was sitting in his parlor, when he heard his daughter Dorothy screaming in the kitchen. Thinking immediately of Empress, Beet ran into the room and found Dorothy cowering in a corner.

The girl crouched Empress, her lips drawn back over her ears and her tail swishing, while she snarled menacingly.

**Tiger Turns to Attack.**  
Beet was unarmed, but as the beast seemed about to spring upon the girl he sprang forward and kicked it in the head. The blow knocked Empress over, but she was on her feet like a flash, crouched and lashing her tail in fury.

Again Beet kicked Empress, and as she toppled over he kept up his attack, shouting to Dorothy to run. The girl obeyed, and as the cub staggered to her feet, still bent on fight, Mr. Beet thought of the gas range and swung open the oven door.

For five minutes Beet held the oven door while Empress thrashed about in it. At last, however, her struggles ceased, and when Beet opened the door the cub was dead.

**IN FEAR OF DEATH.**  
"I had forgotten all about myself. I did not seem to exist, though a horrible fear of death gripped my heart. I thought for a moment that I was that policeman grinding down into the blackness, into the water that flashed with dim lights that seemed like streaks of blood."

"I felt wet, saturated, and the chill was in my heart and marrow. When Sergeant Farrell and the other policemen climbed down to me I tried to kick them away. I fought and struggled with them, for the feeling seized me that they were going to shake me loose from my perch and hurl me down into that black water."

"I had been thinking peacefully of that water, and the quick death it would bring, when I saw that brave man, who did not want to die, crushed and whirled by them, for the feeling seized me that they were going to shake me loose from my perch and hurl me down into that black water."

"I looked up and saw him, but I was calm until that moment, and really wanted to die. Now I want to live, though I feel that my mind is giving way."

**Knows He's Going Mad.**  
"The picture of the tragedy will be ever before me. The fact of that man being killed up as he went down into that icy nothingness will ever be before me. I can see it here on the walls of this room."

(Continued on Second Page.)

**WOULD-BE SUICIDE  
FROZEN WITH FEAR  
AS RESCUER DIES**

Sight of Policeman Being  
Killed Prevents Leap  
From Bridge.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—Although the entire harbor squad and every tugboat plying the East river has searched carefully, they have not recovered the body of Robert J. Fitzgerald, a policeman, who lost his own life last night preventing Edward H. Walker, of Chicago, from committing suicide. The policeman was first struck by a car on Brooklyn bridge, and his body fell into the river.

Walker is almost a maniac in his cell, and tells a graphic story of the tragic manner in which the policeman died.

"I was biting my lips and straining my nerves to get up courage enough to jump," said Walker, "when I saw this policeman rush for the ladder and start to climb. I watched his every move, frozen with fear, as I saw the trolley car rushing toward him. He did not see it. His eyes were on me and burned me. He called to 'Stop! Stop!'

**When Car Struck Him.**  
"I wanted to call out to him and warn him, but my tongue was stiff. When the car struck him I saw his features twist with pain, though his eyes were still on me. Though it was only a second it seemed an age before he fell toward me, with outstretched arms, opening and closing his hands on air blindly reaching for something to cling to."

"He seemed to be falling directly at me, and when I believed he would strike me and whirl me with him down into the water I hugged the pillar I was on with all my might. He fell within two feet of me, but I dared not reach out for him. I was frozen. I had no feeling. His face appealed to me, and he gasped something as he rolled from one beam to another."

"It was awful—that appeal, and the agony in his eyes. His face was still turned up to me as his body slipped between the ties of the railroad tracks, and he went down into the black emptiness below. My eyes followed him, and his face seemed to hang in the air, still looking up at me with that look of appeal, his arms beating the air, and his fingers opening and closing."

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(Continued on Second Page.)

## ABSCONDERS NOW COMING TO JUSTICE

J. Arthur Kemp and  
Willard H. Myers  
Are in Toils.

Kemp Caught in New  
Orleans, and Will  
Be Brought Here.

Myers Surrenders  
And Is Released on  
Bond.

J. ARTHUR KEMP  
Disappeared July 4, 1907.  
Amount of alleged shortage,  
\$8,000 to \$9,000.  
Arrested in New Orleans, Jan-  
uary 10, 1908.

WILLARD H. MYERS  
Disappeared May 28, 1904.  
Amount of alleged shortage,  
\$11,000.  
Surrendered in Washington,  
January 10, 1908.

**—CAUGHT!—**

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\$11,000.  
Surrendered in Washington,  
January 10, 1908.

J. Arthur Kemp and Willard H. Myers, wanted by the Washington police for embezzlement, fell into the toils last night.

Kemp, who absconded on July 4 from the Police Department, where he was employed as property clerk, is held at New Orleans. Detectives Evans and McNamee will leave Washington this afternoon to bring him back for trial. It is alleged that his books show a shortage of between \$8,000 and \$9,000. The police say the money was squandered on a burlesque actress and horse racing. Kemp denies this. He says he invested the money in Rockville, Md.

Myers has been hunted all over the United States since May 28, 1904. He is charged with embezzling \$11,000 in cash and securities from the National Savings and Trust Company. Conscience-stricken and smitten with a desire to see his wife and daughter, Myers returned to Washington last night, and surrendered to the police. He says he stole but \$8,000 of the bank's money, and spent all of it dodging the police. In his satchel \$2,000 worth of the typesetting machine stock which he embezzled was found.

**Send for Kemp.**  
Armed with a bench warrant and requisition papers for Kemp, Detective Sergeant Charles Evans and Thomas H. McNamee leave Washington this afternoon at 4 o'clock for the scene of Kemp's capture. Kemp has been positively identified, admits his identity, and is willing to return. It is no will-o'-wisp, therefore, that the detectives will chase today, as in former instances where men supposed to be Kemp were arrested and afterward released.

Kemp was recognized upon the New Orleans race tracks yesterday by L. J. Brennan, a former Washington policeman, now in New Orleans. Upon arrest he agreed to return to Washington without requisition provided Capt. J. C. Daly, of the Ninth precinct, was sent for him. Until noon today it was thought that Captain Daly would go for the prisoner, and he had made all preparations to leave the city for his journey. At that time, however, it was decided by Major Sylvester to substitute Detective Sergeant McNamee instead.

**Captain Too Busy to Go.**  
"It has been decided that Captain Daly is too busy to go for Kemp," said Major Sylvester, when questioned as to the reason for changing officers. "It is rather unusual for captains to leave their posts. I apprehend that Kemp will come on with the other officers, regardless of his statement that he would agree not to demand requisition if Captain Daly was sent. However, we will be prepared for him in event he fights, and the detectives sent will be armed with the necessary papers."

The arrest of Kemp, who since July last has been persistently hunted by the Police Department on the charge of being short between \$8,000 and \$9,000 in his accounts, caused extreme gratification at Detective Headquarters, and officials expressed delight this morning that the long search had been ended, although everyone had a word of sympathy for the former chief clerk.

Kemp is said to have had only one regret, when arrested last night, that being the shame that his return to Washington would bring upon his family.

**Removal Notice.**  
Washington-Sunset Route has moved its office to 935 F st. nw. Best service to California. A. J. Poston, Gen. Agt.—Adv.